## Fire claims old factory during EPA cleanup

By Meledy McDonald TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

A segment of the Chicago Transit Authority's Green Line "L" was shut down for almost an hour Monday afternoon after a blaze ignited inside an abandoned facfory full of chemicals.

Officials at the scene said seven ager eight contractors hard by the W.S. Environmental Protection tagency were inside Moschiano Agency were inside Moschiano Plating Inc., 2808 W. Lake St., Ideaning up hazardous materials when the fire broke out. The EPA had declared the factory a Superfund cleanup site.

Two EPA workers were transported to Bethany Hospital to be examined, a representative for the Chicago Fire Department said.

of minutes," said Brad Stimple, an on-scene coordinator with the emergency response branch of the EPA. "The electricity was off, but with these old buildings you never know."

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Firefighters apent the afternoon dextinguishing the blaze and gutting the abandoned building, leaving only charred timbers standing offstare the fire.

Officials said the fire was "reported about noon by contractors in the building. Firefighters arrived on the scene about 5 min"utes later and sent out a Level 'One hazardous material alert and 'Ordered the CTA to half service on its Green Line "L," which runs "directly over the building.

For about 50 minutes, trains
were turned back west at Pulaski
Road and east at Ashland Avenue,
Provide a shuttle bus transported
people between the two stations,
isaid Jeff Stern, spokesman for the
CTA. The station at California
Avenue was closed and didn't restrained power until 245 p.m., Stern

aut. In addition, fire officials arrequied traffic at the intersection yiel Lake Street and California Avenue for most of the afternoon.

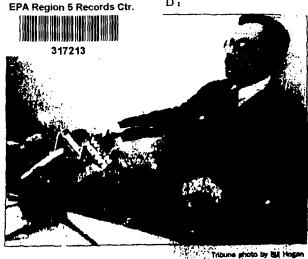
The fire was struck about 1:30 p.m., but the hazardous materials relert wasn't secured until 2:10 p.m., fire officials said.

Officials said the accident is restill under investigation and discent commenting on what estarted the blaze.

Stimple, however, and the "possihillity exists" that the accident was gaused by his workers who were sampling and identifying waste materials at the time of the accident.

Stimple said the building's owner, Frank Moschiano, died in July, leaving behind steel tanks of platin, solutions, heavy metals, acids, cyanide and caustics. He said the EPA started the cleanup job, estimated at \$400,000, on Oct.

"We were here to clean it up, and we have to clean it up," Stimple said, "This actually may have helped a little."



Michael Flanagan shows off the new shoes he bought for his canceled Senate campaign at a Monday news conference.

## Flanagan out of Senate race

Michael Flanagan toppled the powerful Dan Rostenkowski when he went one-on-one with the beleaguered remains to win his compressional seat, but Monday he said he couldn't take on two candidates in a U.S. Senate Republican primary.

"What was a two-man race, one I felt confident I could win, has become a three-person contest," said Flanagan, who said it was Illinois Compiroller Loleta Didrickson's decision last week to enter the contest that made him give up

The most formidable aspect

of Didrickson's candidacy, said Flanagan, 34, was the "party endorsement of her that follimed wish behind it."

With wealthy inverness state. Sen: Peter Fitzgerald able to bankroll his candidacy and Didrickson the beneficiary of GOP party resources, Flanagan said "garnering support for my own candidacy would be difficult."

Just a week before he planned to make his official campaign announcement, Flanagan instead found himself holding a news conference in a rehabled west Loop office building to officially announce his non-candidary.

## but accou

By Hancy Ryan TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

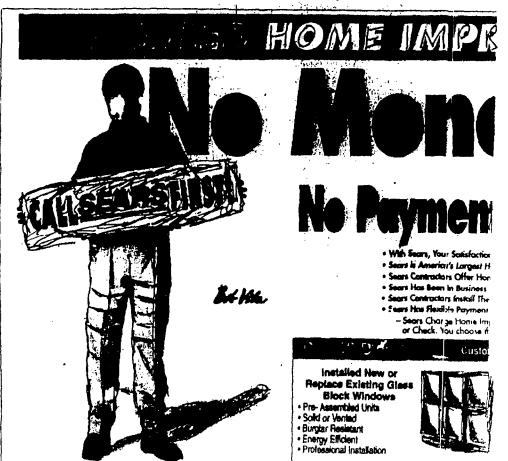
For the first time in the considered, the Chicago House Authority will be able to rely one of the management tools considered essential by most burnesses and governmen at agence Financial records that actual reflect reality.

That was the conclusion of audit released Monday by an in pendent, accounting firm, Deloi & Touchis, of the agency's fix year ending Dec. 31, 1996, whalowed that CHA's tinuncial box are "clean" and accurate a years of sloppy and question record-keeping.

In another housing developmed President Clinton is expected sign legislation this week that a require landlords who are reming their Section 8 contracts charge market-rate rents, a methat should save the federal a eroment \$1.4 billion over five ye because many owners had charthigher rents. The bill renews exing contracts for one year.

Cleaning up its accounting prices was one of the first go established by the current C administration when the L Department of Housing and Uri Development took control of troubled agreey in late spring it a task most of the leaders a expected to take well over to accomplish. In the proutside auditors issued "discia

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